



**CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

February 13, 2013

Statement of U.S. Permanent Observer Delegation during Committee of Ministers Meeting

The United States is interested in joining the European Commission on Democracy through Law (the Venice Commission) to support its focus on encouraging the rule of law in countries making the transition to democracy. Our decision to request membership represents a continued commitment to the use of rule of law to address all range of constitutional issues.

The United States has been an active observer of the Commission since 1991. We look forward to making a positive contribution as a full member based on the United States' legal scholarship, experience and expertise. The U.S. respects and appreciates the influential work the Commission has accomplished in Europe since its creation in 1990 and notes with satisfaction that its expertise is now being recognized and sought by countries outside Europe seeking to strengthen the rule of law in their systems of government. Our membership in the Commission will reconfirm our commitment to work closely with the Council of Europe to promote, preserve, and forward the values we all share in the realms of democracy, human rights, and rule of law.

We hope the members of the Committee will agree and will look favorably on our request for full membership.